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Letter dated 5 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 June 2005, addressed to you by Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 29, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

05-41251 (E) 120705

Annex to the letter dated 5 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

28 June 2005

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 14 June 2005 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/59/846-S/2005/387), which yet again contained false accusations against Turkey aimed at diverting attention from the real issues in Cyprus.

The thrust of the Greek Cypriot representative's letter centres on a totally baseless claim that Turkey is attempting to reinforce its military presence in the island by both increasing the number of troops and upgrading its military equipment. The truth, however, is contained in your report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) (S/2005/353 of 27 May 2005), covering almost the same period. The report unequivocally states and I quote: "The rotation of Turkish troops and their equipment did not imply a reinforcement. The number of Turkish troops and the nature of their equipment thus remained unchanged ..." (para. 10). I am truly spellbound that such glaringly false claims can be made by the Greek Cypriot representative in a letter circulated as a United Nations document.

It should be underlined that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, including the one referred to in the Greek Cypriot representative's letter, describe the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention of 1974, undertaken in accordance with the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960, as "invasion" or the presence of Turkish troops in the island as "occupation". Such distortions are purely a Greek Cypriot invention aimed at blurring the issue and confusing the innocent with the guilty. On this point, I would only like to recall the dramatic statement made by Archbishop Makarios before the Security Council on 19 July 1974 in which he stated and I quote:

> "What was happening in Cyprus since last Monday is a real tragedy. The military regime of Greece has callously violated the independence of Cyprus. Without a trace of respect for the democratic rights of the Cypriot people, without a trace of respect for the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, the Greek junta has extended its dictatorship to Cyprus ... It (the coup of the Greek junta) is clearly an invasion from outside, in flagrant violation of the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus ... The coup of the Greek junta is an invasion, and from its consequences the whole people of Cyprus suffers, both Greeks and Turks ... The Security Council should call upon the military regime of Greece to withdraw from Cyprus the Greek officers serving in the National Guard, and to put an end its invasion of Cyprus".

It is, in fact, true that there is an occupation in Cyprus and it is the 42-year-old usurpation and continued occupation of the seat of Government by the Greek Cypriot side since 1963, when all Turkish Cypriot members of all State organs were forcibly ejected from their positions. The Turkish Cypriot partner did not accept this attempted takeover of the binational State by the Greek Cypriot side and, through its national resistance, prevented the Greek Cypriot side from extending its authority

over the Turkish Cypriot people. In consequence, since December 1963, there has not been a joint central administration in the island, capable of representing the whole of Cyprus, either legally or factually. Each side has since ruled itself, while the Greek Cypriot side has continued to claim that it is the "Government of Cyprus".

As for the Greek Cypriot representative's remarks pertaining to a political settlement in Cyprus, your remark in your mission of good offices report on Cyprus (S/2004/437) dated 28 May 2004 that "What was rejected [by the Greek Cypriots] was the solution itself rather than a mere blueprint" needs no further elaboration. In this context, you also stated that "if the Greek Cypriots are ready to share power and responsibility with the Turkish Cypriots in a federal structure based on political equality, this needs to be demonstrated, not just by word, but by action" and that "if they [Greek Cypriots] remain willing to resolve the Cyprus problem through a bicommunal, bizonal federation, this needs to be demonstrated. Lingering Greek Cypriot concerns about security and implementation of the plan need to be articulated with clarity and finality". Despite this call being reiterated by you on various occasions, it has not yet been properly responded to by the Greek Cypriot leadership. The failure and the unwillingness of the Greek Cypriot side to do so clearly demonstrates that it is not, and has never been, interested in a mutually acceptable settlement, despite continuously professing to the contrary.

The Turkish Cypriot people, on the other hand, continues to adopt a conciliatory approach, and proved, beyond any doubt, their willingness and sincerity for a fair and just settlement in Cyprus by voting overwhelmingly for your settlement plan on 24 April 2004. This declared will of the Turkish Cypriot people, as you put it clearly in the same report, "has undone any rationale ... for pressuring and isolating them". In the same document, you also call on the international community "to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development". You have made it clear that you are as anxious as the Turkish Cypriot side to see that the report is taken up by the Security Council and endorsed with a resolution that would reflect the letter and the spirit of this historical document. In the meantime, however, despite the efforts of the Greek Cypriot administration to the contrary, we expect international organizations, as well as individual countries, to take concrete steps with a view to materializing their declared will to end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people. Such a move is not only a requirement for fairness in Cyprus, but is also the only way to create another window of opportunity from the present impasse that the Greek Cypriot side has created itself.

As for the Greek Cypriot representative's questioning of the real intentions of Turkey vis-à-vis the settlement of the Cyprus problem, I would like to refer, once again, to your latest mission of good offices report, in which you stated and I quote:

> "Prime Minister Erdoğan of Turkey spoke out strongly in favour of a 'Yes' vote, as did Turkish Foreign Minister Gül ... By the commitments made to me by Prime Minister Erdoğan on 24 January 2004 when we met at Davos, and by Turkey's determination throughout the February meetings in New York, the talks process in Cyprus, and the culmination in Bürgenstock, the effort to reach a settlement received an immeasurable boost ... Prime Minister Erdoğan's commitment to me to be one step ahead in the efforts for a solution was kept, and I appreciated the strong support of the Turkish Government, from the top down, for my efforts".

In the light of this undeniable fact, the Greek Cypriot side should cease to level untenable accusations against Turkey and to be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey.

It hardly needs to be stressed that your settlement plan, which the Greek Cypriot representative understandably took special care not to make a single reference to, provided, among other things, for a phased reduction of both Turkish and Greek forces in the island according to a fixed timetable. He also, conveniently, made no reference to the Greek troops stationed in south Cyprus whose existence on the island predates that of the Turkish troops at least for a decade.

Turkish Cypriot people are for a new partnership in Cyprus as unequivocally reflected in the results of the referendums held in the island last year. Bizonality, sovereign equality and the continuation of the 1960 system of guarantees are essential ingredients of a viable and lasting settlement. In order to have a realistic chance of achieving this goal, the Turkish Cypriot side must have a negotiating partner who has come to terms with its heavy responsibility in the creation of the Cyprus issue, and who is willing and able to negotiate for a new partnership free of the devious tactics employed hitherto. As a first step, the Greek Cypriot side, without further delay, should heed to your call and pronounce itself with "clarity" and "finality" on the questions you put to it.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 29, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus